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CELEBRATING COL'S MISSION AT ANNUAL 'BENEFIT IN THE GARDENS'

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PHOTO OF GUESTS CHOOSING DRINKS OUTSIDE THE TENT BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Berrien County Health Department recognizes Overdose Awareness Month, offers free Narcan training

The Berrien County Health Department will once again recognize National Overdose Awareness Month with two drive-thru Narcan training events Aug. 30-31.

These events are intended to educate community members on what they can do to prevent overdoses and recognize individuals who have died from an overdose and their loved ones. This is the second time BCHD has offered this event, which hit full capacity for participation in 2022.

Pre-registration is required for the free training sessions, which take only 15 minutes. In addition to the training, participants will receive a free rescue kit containing Narcan, an easy-to-use nasal spray that can help reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes.

The sessions will be held 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at 2149 E. Napier Avenue in Benton Harbor and Thursday, Aug. 31, National Overdose Awareness Day, at 1205 N. Front Street in Niles.

"In just 15 minutes, we can train individuals to recognize an overdose and administer life-saving medication," said Lisa Peeples-Hurst, public health promotion and prevention supervisor. "This event is beneficial to every person in our community as we work together to prevent overdoses."

The sessions will be led by BCHD's Lisa Peeples-Hurst and Shannon Larry-Burton, who are certified Narcan trainers. Individuals must be 18 or older to participate.

Signs and symptoms of an overdose include small, constricted pinpoint pupils; falling asleep or losing consciousness; slow, weak or no breathing; choking or gurgling sounds; limp body and cold, clammy or discolored skin.

If you think someone is overdosing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend these five steps: Call 911 immediately; administer Narcan or its generic equivalent, naloxone; try to keep the person awake and breathing; lay the person on their side to prevent choking and stay until emergency assistance arrives.

Michigan is one of many states who will not prosecute anyone who alerts first responders to a potential overdose. Always call 911 if you believe someone has overdosed.

To register for a Narcan training session, call 269-927-5622. If you are unable to attend either session, BCHD offers free Narcan training year-round.

For more information, visit www.bchdmi.org or call 269-927-5622.

For more information on preventing overdoses, visit the CDC's website. — **STAFF REPORTS**

Remember upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all.
— Alexander the Great

TOWN SQUARE

LETTERS TO THE NEW BUFFALO TIMES:

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THANKS TO THOSE...

On behalf of New Buffalo Township, I would like to thank all the amazing people that helped to make our 6th annual Public Safety Day a huge success! We had an amazing turnout again this year!

Thank you to the Pokagon Fund for funding our school supply giveaway! We heard from some many families that because of this event, they had all the school supplies that their kids needed to start school. Thanks for your continued support!

Thanks to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office for bringing their Bomb Team, Haz Mat Team, Marine Division, Crime Prevention and Victim Services resources. They were a big hit! The kids loved the games and giveaways! Thanks to our NBT Sheriff Patrol Lt. Ryan Sullivan for helping make it a fun day!

Thank you to Medic 1 for bring your ambulance and showing kids the cool equipment! It's such a great idea to let kids see and learn about what you do so if they ever have to ride in an ambulance, it won't be so scary.

Thanks to First Responders Children's Foundation for donating over 100 book bags and toys!

Big thanks to NBAS Elementary teacher Sara Mead for organizing our School Supply Giveaway once again! Also, to all the NB Elementary teachers and staff that helped at the event! Lots of happy students and parents left with just what they needed for school.

Last but not least, thanks to our New Buffalo Township Fire Dept. for hosting this event!! Chief Flick and his firefighters are always eager to do whatever they can for our community. Whether it's teaching fire safety and playing games with day camp kids or showing kids fire equipment and sitting in a dunk tank at Public Safety Day, these dedicated firefighters continually serve their community in so many ways. The Township is very fortunate to have this amazing group of people!

We hope everyone that attended had as much fun as we did and we'll see you next year!!

— MICHELLE HEIT, NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
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NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Three Oaks Village Council tables amending marijuana businesses ordinance

BY THERESE DONNELLY

The Three Oaks Village Council discussed, but ultimately tabled, a proposed amendment to the ordinance regarding marijuana businesses in the village.

Under the current ordinance, no marihuana microbusiness, retailer or medical provisioning center may operate withing 500 feet of another such business. The proposed amendment would remove that restriction and instead limit businesses by zoning, which is consistent with Three Oaks Township's ordinances.

Facilities are restricted to the Commercial-1, Industrial and Rural districts, and must be a minimum of 500 feet from the property line of a school or 400 feet from Watkins Memorial Park, which largely restricts their location to the US-12 corridor.

Village Councilmember Tyler Ream noted the state has rigorous standards, and now that both Three Oaks Township and New Buffalo Township are allowing marihuana businesses there will likely not be a large increase of business in the village.

Dan Milsk of Harbor Country Collective, a Three Oaks dispensary, urged the council to keep the current restrictions. He noted the current ordinance had undergone years of work before approval and cautioned that the proposed amendment may bring "unintended ramifications."

The council considered how multiple applications would be approved, but made no decisions. While the issue was tabled until September, many agreed with Milsk's opinion that the current ordinance was well considered.

The council approved a sewer ordinance amendment. Attorney George Davis of Davis and Davis Law Offices summarized the new wording for the council. He explained the current ordinance contains outdated terms and inconsistencies, and the State of Michigan required new measures as part of the village's Administrative Consent Order.

Davis said the amendment details the Industrial Pretreatment Program and gives the village the tools to prevent damage to the treatment plant.

He told the council the new amendment has "every tool you would need to deal with any situation that comes up."

Ream said residential users likely will not notice any changes to service under the new amendment.

The council also approved an ordinance amendment to Section 2 of the Zoning Ordinance, regarding accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and accessory buildings in the Residential 1 district. While ADUs may be used for overnight housing, including short-term rentals, accessory buildings may not.

Short-term rental licenses in the village will now require a $500 yearly permit and a $150 yearly inspection fee. The council approved the change.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum has received a $7,500 grant from the Berrien County Foundation. Village president Dan Faulkner said the village had cosponsored the grant application, so the foundation had presented the check to the village office. The village will transfer the funds to the museum.

Upcoming events at the museum include the Sept. 23 debut of a documentary on the Apple Cider Century bike tour. The village is also recognizing the event's 50th year, with a plaque honoring founder Bryan Volstorf. The council approved placing the plaque in the southwest corner of Dewey Cannon Park, visible from Three Oaks Bike Museum.

In an effort to manage staffing issues, some local municipalities are exploring the possibility of combining police and fire departments into a multi-jurisdictional service. When asked by the council, police chief Carl Krause said he is not completely decided on the proposal, but he did not feel police and fire should combine. He noted, if created, the service would likely still struggle with understaffing and individual councils would no longer have direct authority over the appointed police chief.

The council agreed to join a conversation organized by the Pokagon Fund, noting they were only considering, not joining, such an agreement.

The village is set to formally acquire the building at 21 N. Elm Street from Berrien County. Faulkner said the closing date has been tentatively set for the third week in August.

Three Oaks Township has asked if the village would be interested in taking over operation of the community garden on Oak Street. The council discussed it but did not make a decision.

In the wake of recent heavy rains, village president Richard Smith reminded residents that yard waste must be placed in the tree lawn for collection, not in the street where it can be washed into the storm sewers and cause flooding. Faulkner praised residents who cleaned up debris after the storm.

Faulkner also reminded residents that golf carts cannot be driven on village streets. Krause added ride-on lawn mowers are also not permitted on streets, according to state law.

Two new employees have joined the village. Faulkner said Joe Fender is about to begin with the Water and Sewer Department, and Tracy Jones began as utility billing clerk on Aug. 10.

We both (Charlie Munger and Warren Buffett) insist on a lot of time being available almost every day to just sit and think. That is very uncommon in American business. We read and think. — *Charles T. Munger*

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board members hear update on attainable housing project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education heard an update on the Request for Qualifications for the ongoing attainable housing project in the district at their Monday, Aug. 14, meeting.

Eric Neagu of The Antero Group said that the district has acquired a number of parcels at the site on Lubke Street (across from the elementary school) to potentially develop attainable housing there as well as land for the Building Trades program to develop future homes. The parcels have been replatted and combined into a larger parcel and a topographical survey has been done. The district has also discussed with the township and city on potential partnerships that could "help mitigate the cost" of the development so that the price point of the development could be kept affordable for "workforce folks."

Neagu said a huge General Motors facility has been committed to New Carlisle, which is 25 minutes away, as well as some additional industrial development around it. He said it's anticipated that there may be an "influx of people in this area" due to new jobs from the facility, and that New Carlisle and New Buffalo were the best school districts in the area.

Neagu said a huge General Motors facility has been committed to New Carlisle, which is 25 minutes away, as well as some additional industrial development around it. He said it's anticipated that there may be an "influx of people in this area" due to new jobs from the facility, and that New Carlisle and New Buffalo were the best school districts in the area.

Neagu said they've developed qualifications for a developer to partner with the school system. A partnership has been determined to be the best strategy because "we wanted the school district to have a strong voice in what happens," he said, which includes ensuring that the price points stay competitive for potential teachers and other individuals.

"We didn't want to develop something that would become second home properties - we wanted to focus on year round residents who can live and work in the community," he said.

The Request for Qualifications hasn't been published yet, as Neagu said they want their attorney to look at it.

The parcel has been subdivided so a parcel is available for the Building Trades program in the fall.

The sale of the Building Trades house located at 19044 Codi Street was approved. Bowen said that the buyers had had an appraisal done and he hoped to have a closing date soon.

Board members designated Adam Bowen, or his designee, to sign all necessary paperwork for sale/purchase of district properties and all other documents required by the district.

Board members accepted the letter of resignation of Heather Caid, who had just been hired as high school English teacher in June and had accepted a position in St. Joseph.

Board members approved hiring Julie Raducha in the position of middle school Spanish Teacher, pending background check. Bowen said she comes to them from the Buchanan school district, where she taught middle school Spanish.

Board members approved the purchase of outdoor high school camera adds and rework access control for school entry ways.

Bowen said that, in trying to track the people who had accessed the building during open gym, it was discovered that the outside of the building isn't "very well covered at all" by cameras. With regards to the access control, the middle/high school currently has a key card and that, with one of them, the door won't release when you try to push the door. Reworking the access control will allow the district to "test drive" the key card addition he'd like to see used for the entire district.

Board members learned that the following have been approved for employment by the superintendent for the new day care: Kay Gutzman, day care lead; Shana Kirby, day care lead; Amanda Follmar, day care aide; Angelica Hoefer, day care aide and

Bowen said the day care has passed the state inspection, and that the Berrien County Health Department inspection was scheduled for this Wednesday. Registration is currently open.

With regards to the elementary school kitchen/cafeteria remodel, Bowen said that the bidding process opened last week and closes at 2 p.m. Aug. 24. At the pre bid meeting, there was discussion about adding the addition in the fall rather than February. A discussion on how this will impact the students and the feeding process assured Bowen that this will mitigate the impact. Workers will be able to work on the outside of the building and get all the foundation put in there, with Bowen adding that this will "take less time for them to impact the inside."

The NBAS Career and Technical Education Program (Construction Trades) and the district recommended Michigan Merit Curriculum Crezdit - 2023-2024, was approved. Bowen said that students also earn credits in geometry and the visual and performing arts and applied arts through the Building Trades program.

Board members approved the employment of Chris Beushausen in the position of eighth grade volleyball coach.

The bid for 2023-2024 milk products from Prairie Farms, the lowest bidder, was accepted.

The July 2023 Thrun board policy updates were approved.

Chikaming Township Board receives update on Transmission Line Rebuild Project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board are continuing to explore all options with regards to the New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project.

At the last board meeting, board members had instructed Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte to pursue potential firms that may represent the township with regards to the project should the township "decide to go the legal route or find it necessary," Bunte said at their Thursday, Aug. 10, meeting.

Bunte found two firms, one of which worked with the township on its ordinance regarding lakeshore revetments.

He added that, while he didn't think they were at the point in time where they needed to "pursue" legal action, he'd like board members to "entertain" both proposals and let the firms know of their interest should they go the legal route.

In talking with Mona Livingston, external affairs manager for Indiana Michigan Power, Bunte said I & M is looking into four different areas "they're surveying currently to potentially minimize the easements they were originally proposing;" looking at alternative options, whether taking that transmission line route out through open farmland or along the highway or interstate; at keeping wooden poles in Chikaming and possibly Three Oaks and that they were also looking at a tree replacement program for residents who would be "heavily impacted."

"The good news is they have at least entertained the fact we're serious about this issue, they put a pause on just moving forward and are engaging some of their upper-level leadership by looking at these four items," he said.

Bunte was scheduled to meet with one of Indiana Michigan Power's senior vice presidents and Livingston to discuss the items and see if they're taking direction on any of them this week.

Trustee Rich Sullivan said that Bunte could contact the person who works in the legal department of the Michigan Townships Association for guidance on engaging a law firm.

Board members agreed that the issue would continue to remain on the agenda, with Bunte adding that he'd continue to give updates, and, if necessary, a special board meeting may be called should he feel they're not making any progress.

Board members decided to table the matter for now on purchasing an LED sign, which would give information on township happenings to the public, for the lot between Township Center and Harbert Community Park.

Bunte said he received a proposal that gives a ballpark estimate on the cost, which excludes installation, on the sign, with the first estimate being $38,000 to 39,000 and the second one being $32,945.

Board members decided to table the matter until they know the status of the township's SPARK grant application, which was applied for with regards to park improvements, and that moving forward with a sign now may impact the "design elements" for the park, Bunte said.

Board member approved Jason Roe for full-time police officer. Police chief Todd Tylor said he comes to them with decades of experience in law enforcement and administrative experience.

Board members approved the Kruegel Lawton audit for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Police chief Todd Taylor introduces new officer Jason Roe

The township's general fund cash at the end of the year was $2.5 million and the public safety fund was $769,000, with road maintenance at $792,000.

Total assets for the general fund ended at $2.9 million. Current liabilities for the general fund ended at $720,000, with $279,000 of that being ARPA money that's waiting to be spent.

Public safety was $500,000 in total liabilities and the building inspection fund had $22,000.

Total revenues were $1.6 million.

Total expenditures in the general fund were $1.2 million. There was a net change in the general fund of $418,000, which is positive, with the ending fund balance being $2.2 million.

The township has 22 months of operating within its fund balance.

The public safety fund's total revenues were $1.3 million and total expenditures were $1.3 million. The road maintenance fund had $701,000 of revenue and $701,000 of expenditures.

Board members approved speed study requests for Prairie Road from Youngren to the north end and for Warren Woods Road from Three Oaks Road to Prairie Road and Three Oaks Road from Indian Trail Road to Elm Valley Road.

Bunte said that, due to the influx of speed study requests that they've been receiving lately, he was proposing that he draft some type of policy with rules and regulations that need to be followed for speed limit studies, such as possibly requiring a petition requesting the speed study to have a certain number of signatures from households on the stretch of the road.

A resolution in favor of the township participating in a multijurisdictional exploration of current fire and police services was adopted.

Bunte said that this grew out of a cross municipal collaborative group, which includes Harbor Country municipalities along with the City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township. The group had discussed the possibility on doing research on the "potential consolidation of public safety services within this region," within individual municipalities or two or three conjoining municipalities due to "challenges we're facing currently," such as labor shortages, people who started going into the industry and volunteerism.

After meeting with The Pokagon Fund, several municipalities are interested in pursuing participating in a study to gauge the public's interest.

Board members approved the Metro Act Right of Way Permit extension Letter of Agreement. Bunte said they received it from Metro to extend their permit for Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

Board members approved a purchasing/procurement policy. Bunte said that anything exceeding $5,000 comes to the board for approval that's not in the budget; however, this has never been an actual policy.

Board members adopted a resolution that would allow them to begin the process of asking for grants for materials with regards to early voting. A constitutional amendment approved by voters last year will allow voters to vote early and in person at early voting sites before statewide and federal elections. Clerk Paula Duduiak said that currently, the township is working with the county on the matter.

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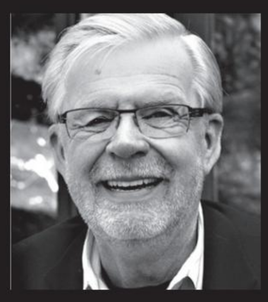
SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

There is nothing like getting off to a good start.

Whether it's getting an A on the first test in the new school year, going on a blind date and finding your date sweet, bright, beautiful, kind, and having a lot in common with you, or catching a pass and turning it into a touchdown the first time you touch the ball as a Chicago Bear. The Bears first exhibition game of 2023 took place last Saturday and most of the players and coaches acquitted themselves wonderfully.

The fans are also excited, as are many local journalists. Justin Fields was perfect, throwing three passes before giving way to the second team. Two of those passes went for touchdowns, and the third went for a first down. Fields needs to take a step forward in the passing game in order for the Bears to contend this season and by all appearances, he's well on his way.

The defense was horrible last season, so many new faces will be playing this year. Last year, in 17 games, the Bears had 20 sacks. Saturday, they had 7. To say the defense looks better is a huge understatement. Bear fans love their team to have a good defense and it looks like these guys are going to fulfill the fan's desire. Finally, a lot of rookies played very well, and that bodes well for the present and the future.

Last season, whenever someone was injured, the drop off was precipitous. Many of the new guys and rookies played as well as many of the starters did last year, so when a player gets injured, the next man up will be a competent professional.

I'm well aware that a single exhibition game does not provide enough information to be able to properly forecast the upcoming season, but I have a gut feeling that the Bears are going to make the playoffs this year. After watching the exhibition game, that feeling was strongly enforced. The Lions and Vikings will be good too, but I think the Packers will end up at or near the bottom of the division this season which will only add to my enjoyment.

The Cubs started off the week by losing two out of three to the lowly Mets but finished much stronger by winning two of three against the playoff contending Toronto Blue Jays. Except for the Mets series, the Cubs are playing better than they have since the World Series season. Cody Bellinger is playing like a superstar. He is playing so well that he may be pricing himself off of the Cubs for next season.

I sincerely hope that the Cubs figure out a way to sign Bellinger. Between him, Dansby Swanson, and Nico Hoerner, the Cubs have a trio of solid veterans who play well in clutch situations. With some of their youngsters getting ready to play in the majors, the future is bright indeed.

Dr. Seuss said, "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So get on your way!"

Happy birthday dear daughter.

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

It's embarrassing that after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other. *— Aldous Huxley*

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FEEDING AMERICA

Red Arrow Raiders gears up for another season on the field

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders are hoping to win more games than last year's high school varsity football team, which finished very strong after a slow start.

Head Coach Matt Johnson said the team with nine returning starters should be very competitive despite losing key performers like Eli Thomas, Josh Seifert, David Fairchild and Cadden Krieger to graduation.

He believes returning young players like M'Nason Smothers and newcomer Owen Slavens, who both have speed, can help fill the gaps on the team consisting of students from New Buffalo and River Valley high schools.

"We have some holes to fill but we have some guys that I think if they do what they're supposed to do they'll be able to fill those holes," he said.

Slavens is a star athlete in track getting accustomed to playing football after not playing since middle school.

Johnson said he expects Slavens to be his starting halfback and possibly play in the backfield on defense.

"He'll be able to fill some shoes as well," he said.

Returning impact players include strong arm quarterback Ethan Lijewski and full back Ryder Wolnik, who's also a very strong performer on defense.

Johnson said other keys to the season will be the play of starting linebackers Peyton Lijewski and Quan Pierce.

He said they were just learning the position last season when the team lost its first two games but improved enough to become major contributors to a streak of six victories in last seven games.

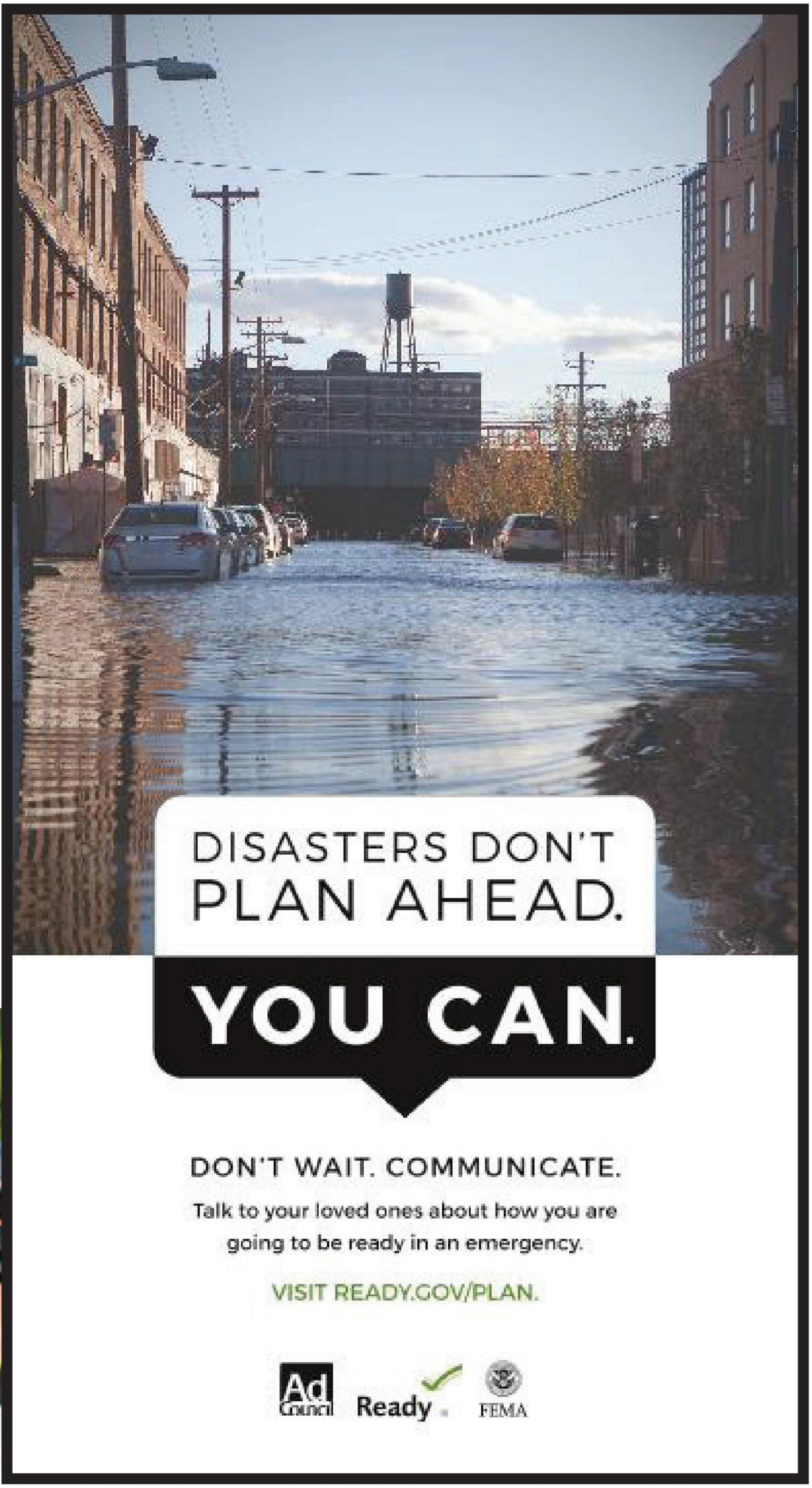
"That's when we turned around our season," he said.

Johnson said another ingredient for a strong season will be keeping starting members of his offensive line and defensive line healthy.

He said each side of the line has four very strong players but lack of depth at those positions could hurt if any of them have to be replaced because of injury.

The first game of the season for the Raiders is August 24 against Bloomingdale at New Buffalo High School.

"I always tell the kids start fast and finish strong. That's the goal here," he said.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Celebrating COL's mission at annual 'Benefit in the Gardens'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The mission of Chikaming Open Lands to protect the natural beauty of the area in perpetuity means a lot to a lot of people.

Brooke Long, a resident of Harbert and now a board member of COL's board of directors, is one of those people.

Having grown up in Bay City, Michigan, Long spent countless hours immersed in nature. When she got older, she attended engineering school at the University of Michigan. After, she spent 13 years pursuing a career in finance.

It was a career that came to a "screeching halt" when Long discovered that she had breast cancer at 33 years old, Long said to guests at COL's annual Benefit in the Gardens, which was held at Stephen and Cindy Mitchell's 30-acre property in Three Oaks Saturday, Aug. 12.

"In an instant, my perspective changed on what truly mattered and how I'd spend my time," Long said.

She sat down and worked out her "core values:" connection to loved ones and something greater than herself, the environment and health.

"Whenever I said yes to something, I made sure it was in alignment to those three values," Long said.

Long got the chance to put this promise to herself to the test when she and her husband moved from London to Chicago. There, she discovered that her cancer had returned to her bones and was metastatic and incurable.

"Because I knew time was very precious, I began to think about how to form a legacy - something that would outlast my mortal self," she said.

During Covid, her husband got to work from home, and they took the opportunity to visit southwest Michigan. Here, Brooke said, she was "enveloped in nature" - which triggered memories of her childhood and led to her being in a small remission. Soon, they found a cabin nestled deep in the woods of Harbert.

Chandler Hams and Aiden Schnell provide the live entertainment

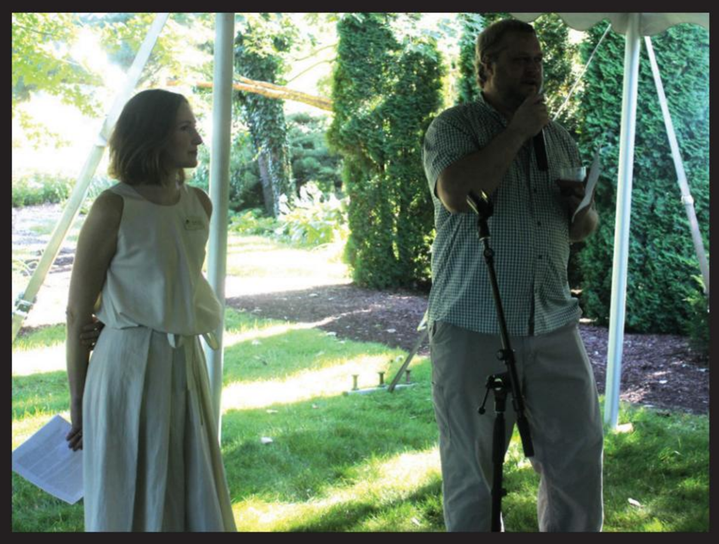
Guests gather in the garden

Guests gather in the large tent

Al and Nancy Erhardt enjoy the garden

Dan Engel (right), stewardship coordinator, interacts with guests

Alan Berkshire, Rhonda Rochambean and Lawrence Shulmer enjoy drinks in the garden



Brooke Long and Ryan Postema speak during the benefit

Guests sign in before entering the garden

Guests enjoy food from Flagship Specialty Food and Fish Market

While unpacking boxes on their second day there, their ears were met with the sounds of chainsaws - the owner of the nearby woods was putting the land up for sale and the "threat for development loomed," Long said.

As it turned out, COL had been eyeing the land for a while: It was attached to three other COL preserves and was the missing link in connecting them.

"Suddenly, we had a rare and fleeting opportunity to preserve the centerpiece and connect it to other three existing preserves and create a 30 acre wildlife corridor," Long said.

With Long as the lead, the neighbors dove headfirst into a grassroots campaign to raise the funds for COL to purchase the land. In 90 days in the winter of 2021, they were able to secure 500 donors and raise the required $1.4 million

"By leading this campaign, not only was I agreeing to act in alignment with my values of connection, environment and wellbeing, but I was helping to create something that would be truly everlasting - and you can, too," Long said.

Today, Harbert Dunes Preserve and Wildlife Corridor is open to the public and contains a boardwalk and walking paths.

COL Executive Director Ryan Postema said he appreciates people like Long, which includes volunteers, those who serve on COL's board of directors and those who sign up for stewardship work days.

Those who are interested in becoming involved in COL's mission can contact the office at 12291 Red Arrow Highway in Sawyer or visit chikamingopenlands.org.

He added that there are "lots of opportunities you can help shape the way this area looks - now and in the future."

COL will be dedicating its newest nature preserve in Buchanan from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27.

According to COL's website, the 45-acre Myron Perlman Nature Preserve, which is located at Wolkins Road a few miles northwest of the City of Buchanan, includes farm fields, wetland and a beech-maple forest. It was donated to COL in full last December by the landowners, Julie Dorfman, Jerry Herst and Anne Krantz, and was named in honor of Krantz's late husband. COL and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy partnered to protect the property. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy holds a conservation easement on the land, while COL owns and manages the new nature preserve.

Decision nears on permanent housing plans in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

There are plans to convert an old Coca Cola bottling plant in La Porte into low-income housing for the homeless, with services designed to keep them off the streets.

Housing Opportunities, a Valparaiso, Indiana based not for profit organization, is behind the $7.5 million proposal that would be paid for almost entirely with a state grant.

The organization, with help from outside sources of funding, has also developed similar housing for people with extremely low incomes in other communities like Michigan City, Valparaiso and Portage, said Housing Opportunities Executive Chief Executive Officer Jim Stanfill.

Stanfill said there would be 16 one and two bedroom units with monthly rent covering utilities and Wi-Fi based on 30 percent of an individual's gross income.

The rent would be subsidized with separate, ongoing grants from the state.

To qualify, he said applicants must first be "exiting the homeless system."

They must also have a diagnosed physical or chronic health related disability or issues with mental health and substance abuse.

Stanfill said a small clinic addressing behavioral issues and other matters would be provided in-house by HealthLink for residents and the general public.

Help in areas like job placement and training would also be offered to residents depending on the individual needs of the tenants, he said.

Other amenities would include an exercise room and space for activities like cooking demonstrations.

On average, Stanfill said residents at other similar units run by the organization stay for about five years.

"It's not transient. It's not short term. It's not a shelter," he said.

Stanfill said former residents, because of the affordability of the homes and easy access to services, "almost always" transitioned to other homes they rent or own or moved in with family members.

"It's an extreme rare case when we have someone exit negatively in this type of housing," he said.

Stanfill said replacing the roof of the brick structure at 205 Rumely Street is included in the renovation plans designed to give the exterior more of a residential look in what's a single family home neighborhood.

The city obtained the structure last year as part of a land swap with the La Porte Community School Corporation.

As part of the deal, the school district was given land for constructing a new bus garage.

Until recently, the school district used the former bottling plant to house its child nutrition, technology and maintenance departments.

Mayor Tom Dermody said ownership of the building will be transferred to the organization if the proposal is given final approval.

The acquisition would be at no cost.

The impact such a facility might have on safety in the neighborhood and property values were among the concerns expressed by number of nearby residents at the previous city council meeting on Aug. 7.

"What ifs with no guarantees is a big risk and a very sad one. A very scary one also," said Aurelio Melgoza, who lives across the street.

Tammy Lawrence of 311 Rumely Street said she likes the idea for such a housing facility but feels it should go elsewhere.

Lawrence said she's especially worried about the safety of children and senior citizens.

"I don't want to see the dynamics of the neighborhood change. We're single families. It basically comes down to fear of the unknown," she said.

Dermody said the benefits would include helping people in need and breathing new life into a building that could become an eyesore and magnet for potential drug activity or squatting if left abandoned over time in a neighborhood already having problems with crime.

He also said background checks would be part of the selection process to minimize any risk tenants might pose.

"I know what the belief is without facts. Code enforcement and the police will do whatever the neighbors need to make sure they feel comfortable," he said.

DUNES SUMMER ARTS THEATRE TO PRESENT ANNUAL BROADWAY CABARET, 'HOPES, DREAMS AND FLIGHTS OF FANCY'

Dunes Summer Theatre will present their third annual Broadway Cabaret, "Hopes, Dreams and Flights of Fancy," one weekend only, at 7 p.m. CST Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18-19, and at 2 p.m. CST Sunday, Aug. 20.

This family-friendly concert will include musical numbers from Broadway musicals, performed by current and previous members of the Dunes' acting company, directed by Steve Scott, with musical direction by Andrew Flasch. Selections will range from classic hits from Broadway's golden age to the best of 21st century songsmiths, including popular musicals such as "Amelie," "Spring Awakening," "Kinky Boots," "Guys and Dolls," "The Music Man," "Secret Garden," "Waitress," "Godspell" and more. Singers will include Max DeTogne, Lili Galluzzo, Danielle Kerr, Khyel Roberson, Amir Smith, Peter Stielstra and Kate Turner, with Andrew Flasch on piano, Emily Pyke on bass and Jared Coller on percussion.

"Our third annual Broadway Cabaret will be the biggest and best one ever, presented in our Dunes Theatre home," said Scott. "We'll showcase songs from a variety of shows from the past 60 years, from such golden age classics as 'The Music Man' and 'Guys and Dolls' to such contemporary works as 'Hadestown,' 'Passing Strange' and 'Waitress' – and we'll feature some of the best performers from our past three seasons as well as outstanding singers new to the Dunes. It's a wonderful way to end our summer season, and I couldn't be more excited to bring this to our incredible Dunes audiences."

This event will be held indoors in the Dunes' air-conditioned theatre, with a garden party set design by Michael Lasswell. The box office will open one hour before the show. Come early and enjoy a snack or drink on our patio. Individual tickets can be purchased for $35 at www.dunesarts.org. Special prices are $30 general; $27 senior/student tickets and $25 for group sales (four or more) are available on Eventbrite.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.dunesarts.org or call 219-879-7509. Follow along on social media @ dunesartsfoundation. — STAFF REPORTS

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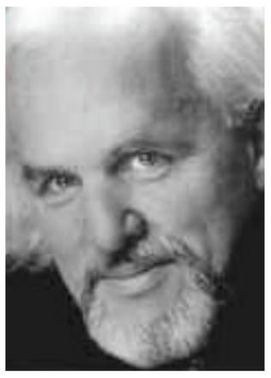
OBITUARIES

Robert Swan
1944-2023



Robert Swan, age 78, peacefully passed away on August 9, 2023, after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

To many, Swan will be remembered as the assistant coach who insists, "Coach Stays," in the Oscar-nominated 1986 classic "Hoosiers," and "I do not approve of your methods," in the Oscar-winning 1987 "Untouchables."

A native of Chicago's Hyde Park, who moved to Rolling Prairie, Indiana, in 2007, Swan is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Collins; his brother, David, and his wife, Elizabeth; a brother, Charles; nephews, Christopher, Bryan and Daniel; two dogs, Baci and Chico; and good friends too numerous to name.

Swan's film resume included not only "Hoosiers," and "The Untouchables" but also "The Dollmaker" (1984) with Jane Fonda, "Natural Born Killers" (1994), "Rudy" (1993), "The Babe" (1992), "Backdraft" (1991) and "Somewhere in Time" (1980). TV credits included "Missing Persons," "The Equalizer," "All My Children" and "Spenser: For Hire."

"The Saint & The Scoundrel," a screenplay he'd worked on over the past few years, was honored in the PRIX ROYAL Paris Screenplay Awards and has won many national and international awards. It centered on legendary English 18th century literary icon, Samuel Johnson, who created the first modern dictionary, and suffered from Tourette Syndrome and is credited with many memorable quotes. A reading of the screenplay, featuring dear friends and fellow actors, Daniel J. Travanti as Johnson, and Si Osborne as his biographer, James Boswell, will take place at a Celebration of Life for at date to be determined.

Robert started his career as a boy soprano singing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hyde Park area. His first acting job was in high school as the lead in "The Bartered Bride." In his early 20s, as a bass baritone, he sang at various synagogues and churches, plus the Lyric Opera chorus and Chicago Symphony chorus. He worked on and off at Court Theatre at the University of Chicago.

In the early 1970s, he performed in "Fiddler on the Roof" with Shelly Berman, and in "1776" with Robert Conrad at Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois. He lived in a tent and rode his bike to rehearsals and shows because the pay was so meager.

He eventually made it to Broadway as one of four original members of Goodman Theater's original cast of "Freedom of the City." Yearning for larger roles, he produced a production of "The Lesson" by Eugène Ionesco at the Orphans Pub on the near north side of Chicago. It also involved, he said, "a new kind of contract allowing Equity actors to perform in new spaces which he named, COLT (Chicago Off Loop Theater) contract, which helped give rise to a bunch of theater groups, including a new outfit called Steppenwolf." The play, which featured Barbara Gaines as the student and Mike Nussbaum in his directorial debut, was, by itself, nominated for more Jefferson awards than all the productions at Goodman that year.

Swan also acted in Northlight's inaugural production of "Jumpers," directed by Frank Galati and later, in "Buried Child."

He worked with Mickey Rooney in "Show Boat" in Philadelphia. He later worked with him at Chicago's Drury Lane Theatre. In the middle of the play, Mickey would go out into the audience and schmooze, which bothered Swan because he had his big scene coming up which was ruining the mood. So, one night, Swan went into the audience, picked up Rooney and carried him back to the stage. "I thought I was going to be fired, especially when Rooney bounded into my dressing room. Instead, Rooney told Bob, "Keep it in."

Swan also worked with Broderick Crawford at Drury Lane.

During a lull in his career, he scored voice-over work in Chicago. He was the voice of Busch Beer, Nine Lives Cats Food, United Airlines, Schlitz, The Beef Council and many, many more which can be found on Swan's website, www.robertbswan.net.

In his later years, when he became a cherished presence in his local Indiana/SW Michigan community, he founded Harbor Country Opera, attracting top talent to present operatic classics and pop favorites. He often cited his holiday production, "Christmas at The Acorn," as his favorite, because it restored his faith in the true meaning of the season. In the past few years, his health was a constant struggle, but repeatedly bounced back from each scare in time to present the Christmas show.

A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Harbor Country Opera at www.harborcountryopera.org

A retrospective video of Swan's career, created by his dear friends — radio personality/anti-bullying advocate Betty Hoeffner and radio DJ/professional musician Anthony Pratscher , is viewable at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I--KzeDbME

Mary Gaylordine "Deanie" Vesely
1944-2023

Mary Gaylordine "Deanie" Vesely, 79, of Three Oaks, went home to be with Jesus, Sunday, August 13, 2023, in the presence of her family, having courageously lived many years with dementia.

Her life began May 1, 1944, in St. Anthony's Hospital, Michigan City, Indiana, the middle child of Gaylord "Whitey" and Mary Louise Hass. Deanie was raised and lived her whole life in Three Oaks, Michigan, where she married George Edward Vesely on August 1, 1964.

Deanie, as she was affectionately known, was a loving wife, mom, grandma, sister, aunt, and friend. She never met a stranger and loved her family, and friends. She cherished being a wife and mom, and especially loved being a grandma. She was Connor's biggest fan and was always present at his sporting events, to cheer him on.

She briefly worked at Heath Company before raising her children. After her girls graduated, she worked at River Valley High School for eighteen years. She was lovingly called the "Queen of the Copy Room," a job that brought her so much joy. She loved being part of a fantastic staff and touched the lives of so many students who, in turn, touched hers.

Deanie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her adoring husband of fifty-nine years George Vesely of Three Oaks; daughters, Julie (David) Legault of Buchanan, Lisa Vesely of Kalamazoo; grandson, Connor Legault; granddaughters, Makayla (Brad) Johnson, Marissa Legault; great granddaughter, Ella; brother, George (Linda) Hass; nieces, Alicia Hass, Krista (Alax) Barnes, Jennifer (Marcus) Gough; great niece, Nora; great nephews, Miles, and Layne.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Robert Hass.

Family and friends will gather Wednesday, August 16, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., in St. Mary of the Assumption, 28 Ash Street West, Three Oaks. Family and friends may also visit with the family one hour prior to the service, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Deanie will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Chikaming Township.

The family would like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful hospice staff at Caring Circle, with a special thank you extended to Olivia.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Deanie be made to a scholarship fund to be established in her name for a deserving student at River Valley High School, care of Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

AUGUST 17-23, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Romantic endeavors can get pretty complicated this week as the feeling to start over or move on plays heavily on your mind. Focus on your own personal concerns and try to communicate your needs calmly and honestly. Avoid taking on feelings and concepts that don't match your true self.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

The desire for privacy and personal space is strong now due to challenges in communication. Take the time to get some distance between you and anyone that has been having a negative effect on your self-esteem. Honoring your need to pull back will give you a better perspective on the long-term.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Get your running shoes on because a faced paced week is commencing. Your ability to keep situations and feelings lighthearted, especially when it comes to your love-life, will determine your level of satisfaction. There could be a conflict over how to divide the financials. Get it down paper.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Sometimes we are confronted with people who are overly confident in their abilities and sometimes they overstep the boundary with you because of this. The best way to handle this is to take each situation with them as a new experience and that means sharing your observations as they happen.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Venus will be amping up your powers of attraction and manifestation. Use it to its fullest by projecting the most positive vibrations about yourself and others that you can. Creatively visualize the best for all. You will be holding the Light so to speak so be sure to keep your focus on the greatest and highest good.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Your cash flow will appear very erratic this week creating an opportunity for you to focus on more practical uses of your money. There is a huge possibility of expansion and movement in your financial sector late in the month. It is better to put off big purchase items until you find the best deal.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

You may feel a lot of pressure at work or in public this week. The feeling like all eyes are on you can be a little overwhelming and you are experiencing just that. Remember to breathe and use that cat like calmness when your inner confidence feels questioned or threatened. No worry, you so got this.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Professional matters are strong this week and you will have an opportunity to show off your abilities to people of influence. Hitting a home-run depends on the pitch and you have one coming at you that could land way out of the park. Keep your eyes on the ball and avoid the gossip game.

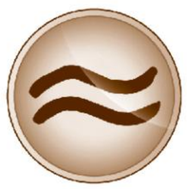
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Unsettled financial matters could get in the way of your extra-curricular activities this week and you may find yourself staying home to save money. Use this as an opportunity to go thru the cupboards and create a master piece of a meal. You may be surprised how much fun it is to be at home.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Loosen your grip on family members and just let them do what they think they have to. You cannot protect them from everything or decide what their level of obligation should be. Free yourself from the responsibility of taking care of them. Avoid letting fear dominate your interactions.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



The new moon falls opposite your sign this week. So be prepared for an emotional few days and get the tissue because there could be tears. The new moon always brings a new perspective to problems. Change can be hard but with a new perspective comes a renewed sense of hope.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

It is time to tone things down and get serious about your health routines. Put your attention on yourself and how you are feeling in that body. There is nothing wrong with focusing on yourself. Taking care of the physical side of life does not make you selfish it makes you more appealing.

The assaults of adversity do not weaken the soul practicing reasoning. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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7		4						5
	1	8	4	6				
	6		7					9
		5	2		9			
								7
			9		8	5	2	
	2					8	1	

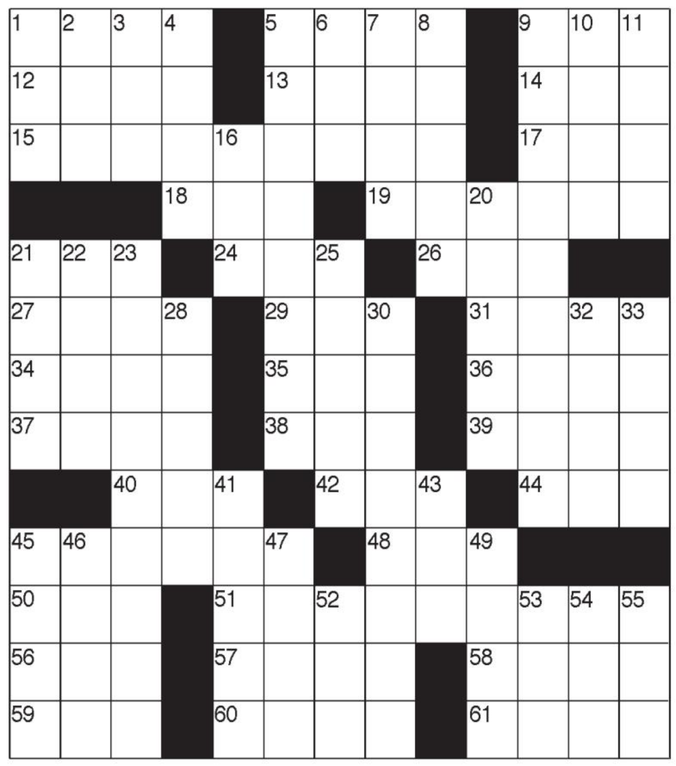
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

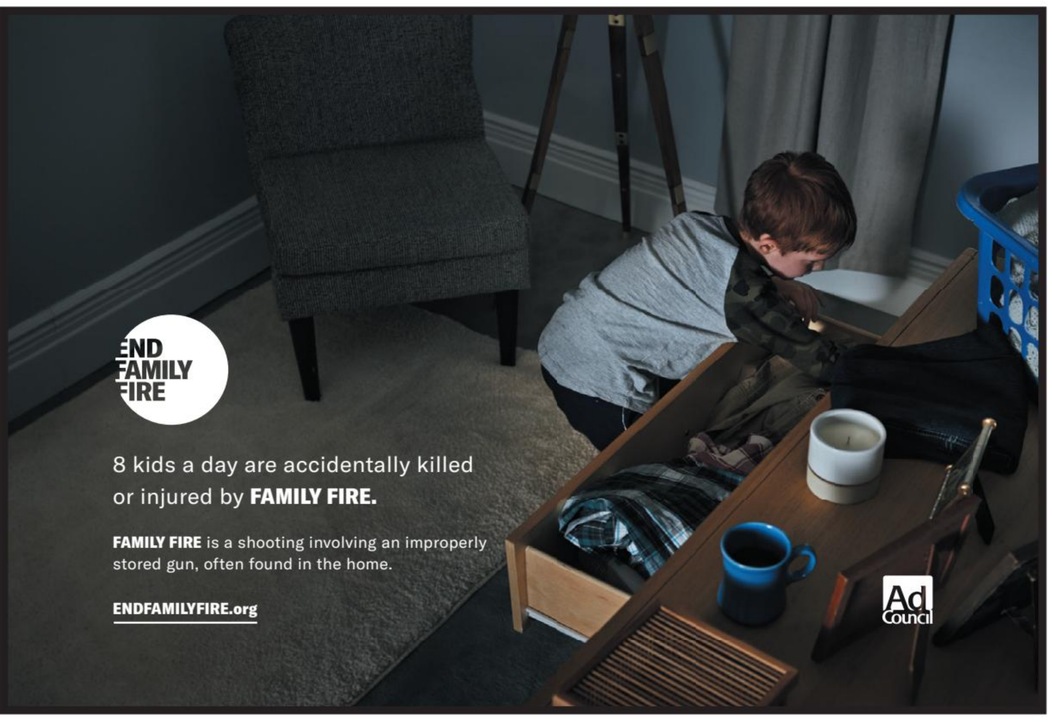
ACROSS

1 Ancient race of Japan
5 Ship's wheel
9 Socialist Labor Party (abbr.)
12 Ancient Gr. city
13 Large lake
14 Hawaiian assembly
15 Pirate (2 words)
17 Experimental (abbr.)
18 Corinthians (abbr.)
19 Barons
21 Here lies buried (abbr.)
24 Jap. fish
26 Border for a picture
27 Talk stupidly
29 Promise to pay
31 Dog salmon
34 Roman number II02
35 Celestial body
36 Scandinavian navigator
37 National (abbr.)
38 Multilateral Nuclear Force (abbr.)
39 Dried up
40 Commodore (abbr.)
42 Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (abbr.)
44 Doctor of Library Sciences (abbr.)
45 Battered
48 African native
50 Blockhead
51 Weapon
56 Imitator
57 P.I. dyewood tree
58 Mineral deposit
59 System (abbr.)
60 Red dye root
61 Boat

DOWN

1 Bronze money
2 Capable of (suf.)
3 Nat'l Intelligence Authority (abbr.)
4 United States Reserve Corps (abbr.)
5 Judaism
6 Tarzan creator's initials
7 Claim
8 Lake near Sea of Galilee
9 Protected
10 Extravagant
11 Playing card spots
16 Out (Scot.)
20 Roasts
21 Ode
22 Jackfruit
23 Gear
25 Demeter's other name
28 Aviator
30 Unjustly
32 Twirl (Scot.)
33 Expert pilots
41 Doctor
43 African sorcery (abbr.)
45 Sheep's cries
46 Descry
47 Cloud (pref.)
49 Mere
52 Narrow inlet of a river
53 Portuguese territory in India
54 Man's name: abbr.
55 Relative (abbr.)

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Warren Dunes drowning victim from Chicago area

BY STAN MADDUX

A man who drowned in Lake Michigan at Warren Dunes State Park near Sawyer was from the Chicago area.

The victim, identified as 38-year-old Luis Sifuentes, was from Bensenville, Illinois, a north suburb near O'Hare Airport.

According to authorities, he and two other men were beyond the designated swimming area in choppy water during the afternoon on Sunday, Aug. 13.

They and other swimmers were beyond the buoys when the once calm lake began churning up two to three foot waves, prompting life guards to verbally request they return to the designated swimming boundaries, police said.

Authorities said one of the men was able to get to shore while another man was helped out of the water and taken to a local hospital where he was later released. .

Sifuentes was found beneath the surface of the water about 15 minutes later and pulled into a boat where CPR was started, but he failed to respond.

Baroda-Lake Township Police Chief Shawn Martin said the waves bringing sand up from the bottom made it difficult to see through the water.

Somebody using a drone to assist in the search was helpful in locating the victim, he said.

This was the second drowning at the Warren Dunes this year.

"It's just very unfortunate that people don't pay attention to where the buoys are or listen to people. They just want to do things on their own and it can be very deadly for them," Martin said.

The names of the other two men were not released but police said they were in their 30s and 40s.

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First humans this year infected with flu by pigs confirmed

BY STAN MADDUX

The first cases of humans catching flu from pigs in the U.S. this year both came from Michigan, which had one last year in Berrien County.

The Centers for Disease Control is linking each of the cases to county fairs last month in Oakland County outside Detroit and Tuscola County in what's known as the Thumb section of the state.

According to CDC, one of the cases involved a child, who was a fair exhibitor exposed to infected pigs within 10 days of developing symptoms.

Both people were recovering at home after given anti-viral drugs to treat the influenza.

A human flu infection from a pig is rare but not uncommon, according to CDC.

In 2022, Michigan had at least one person come down with flu linked to contact with an infected pig during the Berrien County Youth Fair.

Indiana has not had a confirmed case of flu spreading from pig to human since an outbreak blamed on exposure during county fairs in 2012, said Denise Derrer-Spears, a spokesperson for the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

Derrer-Spears said she wasn't sure why there have been no confirmed cases ever since but state guidelines to minimize the chances of flu spreading from pigs to humans and from humans to pigs were distributed to operators of county fairs statewide following the outbreak.

She said transmission of flu between the species primarily happens at county fairs or pig shows because the animals come from all over and are kept in pens closer to each other than a farm.

She said another reason is heavy foot traffic, which is restricted primarily to just family members and workers at farms.

Like humans, she said flu in pigs is spread from contact with airborne particles emitted from sneezing and coughing.

Humans can then become infected by touching a pen or whatever else they come into contact with touched by the airborne particles.

"That makes that transmission of that virus fairly easy to happen especially when there's a lot of it in a very small space," she said.

The state guidelines for preventing infection include pigs at county fairs or shows not staying in a barn for more than 72 hours to keep any build-up of the virus in closed quarters from becoming larger.

Among the other recommendations are washing hands after having contact with a pig and not eating or drinking close to the animals because of the risk of airborne particles from their sneezing and coughing landing on food and beverages.

"We tell exhibitors and visitors if they're sick stay out of the barn. If an animal is sick leave it home or gets sick at the fair get it out of there," Derrer-Spears said.

According to CDC, the symptoms of contracting flu from pigs are similar to catching the virus from humans.

The symptoms are usually mild but can become severe depending on the health or age of the individual.

"Like seasonal flu, some groups of people are at higher risk of developing serious complications from infections with swine flu viruses," CDC officials said.

According to CDC, people at higher risk should not go inside barns containing swine.

However, if exposure to pigs cannot be avoided they should wear a well-fitting mask covering the nose and mouth along with protective clothing and gloves.

Since 2005, more than 90-percent of the 521 confirmed variant flu infections in the U.S. were from exposure to pigs or attendance at agricultural fairs, according to CDC.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Separate sealed BIDS for the Oselka Park Pavilion Improvements Project includes the installation of a continuous metal panel (soffit) lining system on the underside of the existing metal roof structure and lighting fixture replacements at Oselka Park. Bids will be delivered to the existing New Buffalo City Hall Office at 224 West Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117 by 2:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) on Thursday, September 7th, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
Electronic copies of the bid documents are available at no cost by visiting www.abonmarche.com/bids/. Once you submit your contact information, you will have access to the project bid documents list.
Printed copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of Abonmarche, 95 W. Main St., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, upon payment of $25 for each set.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum to present 'The West Michigan Pike' program

The West Michigan Pike— the first continuous paved road in this part of the state— paved the way for tourism and weekending that have been cornerstones of the area's economy for decades.

On the evening of Thursday, Aug. 24, John Geisler, professor emeritus at Western Michigan University, will show and tell about the development of this seminal roadway and the impact it had on Michiana.

Dr. Geisler, a member of The Region of Three Oaks Museum, is well known for his presentations on Michigan history.

The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lake Shore Road in Lakeside. The inn is a gem that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Having thrived due to the increased automotive traf1ic the West Michigan Pike brought in the 1910s and 20s, it's the perfect place for this program.

Admission is just $5 for museum members, and the cost of an individual museum membership is only $15. All proceeds benefit The Region of Three Oaks Museum, a 501 (c) (3) nonpro1it organization dedicated to preserving and presenting area history. — STAFF REPORTS

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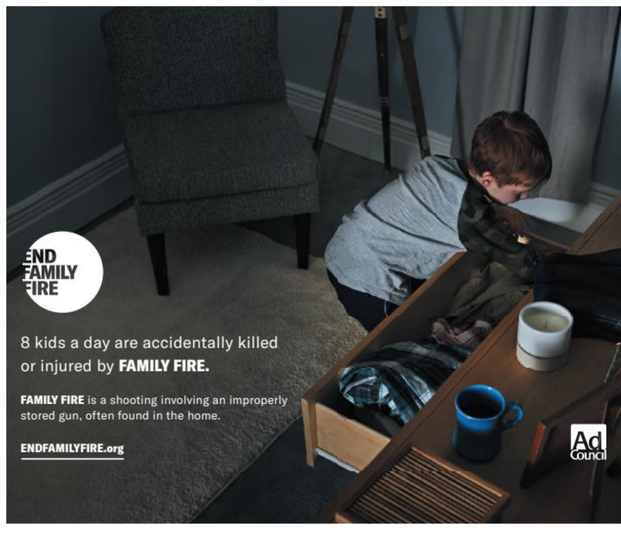
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Berrien County Youth Fair crowns its new queen and king, prince and princess

Elizabeth King of Three Oaks and Ryan Murphy of Niles represent the Berrien County Youth Fair as the queen and king at this week's fair.

The new royalty was chosen Friday, Aug. 11, during a contest in the Grandstand at the fair.

The first runner up to the king is Aiden Conley of Baroda and first runner up to the queen is Evie Clare of Sodus.

Queen and King Elizabeth King and Ryan Murphy

The new royalty has been having busy week serving as public relations representatives of the fair, handing out ribbons and trophies and attending ceremonies and concerts throughout the week, in addition to showing their exhibits.

Elizabeth is a 19-year-old student at Hope College. She is pursuing a degree in Nursing with a minor in Spanish and plans to become a traveling nurse and eventually a nurse practitioner. She's entered rabbits, poultry, flowers, baking and horticulture at the fair this year. She is the daughter of Andria and Steven King.

Ryan is a 16-year-old student at Niles High School. He has plans to pursue a degree in aviation at Western Michigan University or enter a trade school after high school. He's been showing in the sheep department this year. He is the son of Emily and Michael Tharp.

Evie is a 19-year-old student at Midway University. She plans to further her education at Midway University while playing soccer there and studying equine. She shows in the home economics, crafts, cats and equine departments. She is the daughter of Cory and Tracy Clare.

Aiden is a 17-year-old student at Bridgman High School. He plans to pursue a degree in agri-business at Michigan State University. He shows in the llama, swine, goat, poultry, rabbits, pocket pets, flower and horticulture departments. He is the son of Lauren Wheeler.

Just before the king and queen contest, the Berrien County Youth Fair held its 11th annual Prince and Princess Contest. The contestants were aged anywhere between 9 and 12 years old and were required to be a current BCYF exhibitor.

Zarrah Dyer of Niles and Corbin Blair of Niles will serve as this year's BCYF Princess and Prince. The duties of the princess and prince are like the duties of the king and queen, so fairgoers have seen them around the fair attending various ceremonies and also serving as public relations representatives.

Zarrah is 11 years old. She shows in the goat, rabbit and poultry departments. She is the daughter of Tom and Brein Dyer.

Corbin is 11 years old. He shows in the swine, rabbit and poultry departments. He is the son of Joseph and Sarah Blair.

The 2023 Berrien County Youth Fair kicked off Monday and ends Saturday, Aug. 19, with the theme "Summer Safari." — STAFF REPORTS

Princess and Prince Zarrah Dyer and Corbin Blair

First runners up Aiden Conley and Evie Clare

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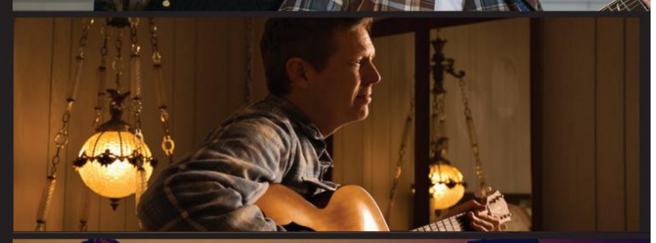

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